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Next Jam: 1-5 PM, March 20, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

## President's Corner - Joe Steiner



As we start to head out of the clutches of winter and start looking forward to spring ahead, your NIBGA board has been busy. As we always are this time of year, we have been planning the May and September Tri-State festivals.

This year, some board members and chairpersons have also been busy analyzing our expenditures to complete an Indiana Arts Council (IAC) grant application, and finalize reporting relative to a grant we previously received.

The board has placed a higher emphasis on hiring Indiana talent this year, since the IAC places an emphasis on supporting Indiana artists. The grant process is still relatively new to us, and we have tried, with limited success, to secure grants in the past. However, we were successful in our previous application to IAC, and we are hopeful in regard to the current grant also.

Jim Winger (Vice President and past President) and Julie Goldsmith (Publicity Chairman) are to be commended for their work heading up the grant application process, as are the rest of the club leadership that has assisted them in this process. As we move forward, post-COVID, we look to grants as an important income source.

We are a little behind our normal schedule in completing festival arrangements, since we have had extra work to do in analyzing our previous results (after a hiatus of 20 months) and evaluating potential options for the future. But things are now well on their way, and elsewhere in this newsletter you will find notes on some of the bands that will be appearing at the spring festival.

Before I close, I'd like to reiterate once again that NIBGA is an association. An association of people that care deeply about the bluegrass genre and its continuance. ALL members and volunteers are invaluable to us! I want to thank each and every one of you for your interest and support! And I want to extend SPECIAL THANKS to our PATRONS, who are listed elsewhere in this newsletter, and without whose support we would not have survived the last couple years!

I also want to encourage participation from all members. I realize that some folks are more comfortable than others volunteering or making suggestions, but any inclination you may have to help out or make suggestions is encouraged and appreciated.

If you are interested in helping out, or have any suggestions, please contact us by calling the club office (260-918-4790), dropping us a line by email (PRES@NIBGA.com or VP@NIBGA.com), or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/KendallvilleBluegrass). Or... drop by the

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Over the next couple of issues we will run a short story on each of the Spring Memorial Day Festival bands.

Our first band is...

### Dry Branch Fire Squad

Ron is a native Ohioan and Dry Branch Fire Squad was a staple of the Dayton music scene for many years. Over that time, his group included many Dayton area greats, such as Dave Edmundson, Suzanne Thomas and Mary Jo Leet. Ron subsequently moved to Colorado and became "semi-retired" so we don't get to see him around these parts as often. If you have ever seen Ron before, you know that a DBFS concert includes a few of his humorous yarns in addition to some GREAT music. And if you've NEVER seen his show before, here is your chance!!!! They will be here for one day only - Saturday, May 28.



The **Hogslop String Band** will be making their second appearance at Tri-State at the Memorial Day festival. This hard driving, entertaining group last made an appearance in 2018. They were slated to appear again in 2020, but, of course, that didn't happen. I'm excited that we were able to make it happen this year though!

To say these guys are high energy would be a massive understatement – their stage show is a thoroughly entertaining experience. They drive it as hard as anyone that has ever been on our stage, but their inspiration comes more from the Skillet Lickers than the Bluegrass Boys. In many ways, they remind me of the Highlands String Band, the fine old timey "revival" group from Ithaca New York that was active in the 1970s.

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Although I think the Hogslop guys would clean up well, it is difficult to tell with certainty since they aren't the type that tend to dress up in suits and ties. They also tend to be the type that act... well... a little crazy. I think that's mostly because of their bass player, Pickle. But, again, it's hard to tell for sure.

When they were at Tri-State last, Pickle was playing a washtub bass, but it appears he has now graduated to a regular doghouse – it will be interesting to see if that has tamed him at all. My guess is not. (This is the fellow who is rumored to have suffered broken bones when he jumped off stage into a mosh pit.)

Kevin Martin drives the group in true old-time fashion from the fiddle, and Gabriel Kelley handles the guitar and much of the vocal work while keeping the stage show moving. Of course, clawhammer banjo is a critical piece of this driving machine, and that is handled by Daniel Binkley.

I already mentioned Pickle (yes, that's his name, or at least that's what he answers to), who plays the washtub bass. I was quite impressed with his handling of the washtub bass, so it will be fun seeing what he can do with a doghouse. You don't see many good washtub bass players, but Pickle is a really good washtub bass player. And, he's a hoot too!

As their web site states, these guys stay true to tradition while maintaining a bold irreverence – it might seem like an oxymoron, but once you see them, you will understand!

## President's Column - continued

club meeting on the third Sunday of each month at the SW Conservation Club in Ft Wayne. Our meetings are open to the public, and there is a simultaneous bluegrass jam session which is a lot of fun. (Regardless of any rumors, I don't always try to wrap up the board meeting quickly so I can pick!)

Please keep in touch with suggestions and comments - while there is a board of directors that oversee the actual activities of the association, many of the good things that get accomplished are the result of your suggestions and assistance. An association is only as good as its members, and we are blessed to have the collective knowledge and experience of so many! Taxi service, extended music workshops, slow/intermediate jams, private golf cart usage, teacher workshops, Bluegrass Kids' Academy, Bluegrass in the Schools programs, T-shirt designs, increased visibility with advertising are some examples of member suggestions in action.

Well, that's all I have for now. With spring just around the corner, I'm itching for good weather so we can pick outside again.

Joe Steiner

## Over Jordan



**Burl Manns**, 78 years old of North Judson, Indiana, passed away surrounded by his loving family, Sunday, January 30, 2022 in North Judson, Indiana.

Burl enjoyed playing guitar, singing and attending the picking and grinning at North Judson. Burl was a very familiar face (and always had a ready hug) at the Kendallville festivals. He was friends with everyone.

This was posted on facebook by his cousin, Sharon. It pretty much sums up the way we felt about Burl. "Today we lost one of the most important people in our lives. Burl Manns. Burl was the kindest, happiest, sweetest person you would ever meet. Building the Cabin was his dream and thousands have enjoyed it because of that dream. He lived each day happy, no matter what. The last time I talked to him he was weak but still laughing. Said he believed he still had a little song and twist left lol. Burl, you were loved by so very many and I know without a doubt you've walked into Heaven's gate with that smile. We love you, and we will miss you so much. But we have memories that will last a lifetime."



**Jim Duty**, 66, died on January 22. Jim was the fiddler and founder of Open Highway Bluegrass Band and a very familiar face to many of us.



His band performed at Kendallville several times between 1994 and 2018. "Jim left this world a Christian. He loved his faith, his wife, his children, grandchildren and his fur baby, Sadie. He loved bluegrass music, his music family, fishing, flea markets and the Cleveland Browns." I know you're singing *GONNA HAVE A YARD SALE COME NEXT FRIDAY* up there in heaven.



## Upcoming Events

It is great to see so many events starting to happen again. However, please call ahead to make sure it is still on before you travel a distance.

### INDIANA

**1<sup>st</sup> Thurs** Wakarusa Bluegrass Jamboree, Northwood Middle School, 301 N. Elkhart St, Wakarusa, **IN** 46573 574-862-2200 6:30-9p Free

**Last Fri** Boardwalk Jam, Ben's Pretzels, 100 Berkshire Dr, Shipshewana, **IN** 46565-8757 6:30p

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sun** Northern Ind. Bluegrass jam & meeting, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne, **IN** 46809 noon-6p free all welcome, acoustic only instruments, food & beverages available

**03/06** Central Indiana BGA jams, Hontz Hall, 307 E South H St, Gas City, **IN** 46933 765-674-5117 noon-??

**03/11** The Isaacs; Ball State University Pruis Hall - Muncie, **IN** 47306 7:30pm 765-285-5524 pruishall@bsu.edu

**03/19** Dailey & Vincent - Statler Tribute; Blue Gate PAC, 760 S Van Buren St, Shipshewana, **IN** 46565 7:30p \$19.95-59.95 260-768-4725

**03/24** John Jorgenson; Ball State University Pruis Hall - Muncie, **IN** 47306 7:30pm 765-285-5524 pruishall@bsu.edu

### MICHIGAN

**Every Weds.** jam with Ron Hammon, Moose, 4043 Howe Rd, Grand Blanc, **MI** 48439 6:30-9p Ron - 810-309-0032

**Every Sun.** Bob's Barn Jamborees, 1417 Johnson St., Lake Odessa, **MI** 48849 616-374-8205 3-4p show, 4:30-7p jam bobwarner40@gmail.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Sat** Manton Jamboree, Ranger room, Manton HS, 105 5th St, Manton, **MI** 6-9p lwestbrook17@hotmail.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Tues** Presbyterian Village 32001 Cherry Hill Road Westland, **MI** 48135 313-617-4864 7-9:30p Wendy Hause, whause@frontier.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sat** Maumee Street Music Jam, First Presbyterian Church, 156 E.

Maumee, Adrian, **MI** 49221 6p, use east side door, snack bar, Mullins 517-607-8085, Church 517-265-2168

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tues** Presbyterian Village 32001 Cherry Hill Road Westland, **MI** 48135 313-617-4864 7-9:30p Wendy Hause, whause@frontier.com

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sat** West MI Bluegrass, Aiden's Place, 42 E Lake St, Sand Lake, **MI** 49343 616-419-6713 1p

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sun** Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, **MI** 48917 2-5p \$5 donation 517-505-2809

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tues** Presbyterian Village 32001 Cherry Hill Road Westland, **MI** 7p 313-617-4864

**4<sup>th</sup> Sat** Michigan Bluegrass Assoc., Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Dr., Flint, **MI** 48506 6p 810 736-5332

### OHIO

**Most Wednesdays** Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, **OH** 45252 6:30-8:30p 513-385-9309 free, food available

**03/04** Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers; Miami University, 4200 N University Blvd, Middletown, **OH** 45042 7p

**03/04** The Woodpickers; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p

**03/05** Don Rigsby & the Fly By Nights; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 4p

**03/05** The Isaacs; Ohio Star Theater at Dutch Valley, 1387 SR 39, Sugar Creek, **OH** 44681-7666 330-275-9006

**03/05** Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers; Sturart's Opera House, 52 Public Square, Nelsonville, **OH** 7 pm

**03/05** The Hamilton's; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, **OH** 45316 937-767-1767 7:30p

**03/06** Slate Ridge; Combustion Brew-

ery, 80 W. Church St, Pickerington, **OH** 43147 614-834-9595 4-7 pm

**03/09** Billy Strings; State Theater, 1519 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, **OH** 44115 8:30 pm \$100-500 (note: Sold Out but waiting list exists)

**03/11-12** Billy Strings; Andrew J Brady Icon Music Center, 25 Race St, Cincinnati, **OH** 45202 6:30 pm (note: Sold Out but waiting list exists)

**03/11** Gipson & Fitz; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p

**03/11** Kody Norris Show; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 6 pm

**03/11** Appalachian Grass; Butler County Bluegrass Association, Collinsville Community Center, 5113 Huston Rd, Hamilton, **OH** 45004 7-9p 937-417-8488

**03/12** Kody Norris, Larry Efaw, Ottawa County, Coney Carver, Harold Hamilton; Halfway to Mansfield Jamfest, Richland County Fairgrounds, John Hartz Building, Mansfield, **OH** 44906 Doors 3p Music 6p

**03/18** Rhonda Vincent and the Rage; Marysville Winter Bluegrass Series, First United Methodist Church, 207 S Court St, Marysville, **OH** 43040 7p

**03/18** Kauffman Road Bluegrass Band; Wagnalls Memorial Auditorium, 150 E Columbus St, Lithopolis, **OH** 43136 7:30 pm

**03/18-19** Del McCoury Band, Wu Grass, Logan Halstead, The Ragbirds, Buffalo Wabs, The Price Hill Hustle, The Spikedrivers, The Relentless Mules, Stringus Khan, Hocking River String Band, Mama Said String Band, George Barrie Band; 3 stages Woodlands Tavern, 1200 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-299-4987

**03/19** Berachah Valley; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt

Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938  
4p

**03/19** Willow Creek; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, OH 45316 937-767-1767 7:30p

**03/23-26** Many artists. See bluegrassUSA.net for full line-up under Ohio Events. Music begins Thursday at 6 pm (Doors open at 4), Friday & Saturday at noon (doors open at 10 am) Industrial

Strength Bluegrass Festival, Roberts Center. I-71 at US Rt. 68, Wilmington, OH

**03/25** Edgar Loudermilk; Moon City Events Ctr, 1208 Lunar Dr, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 567-204-0929 7p

**03/25** Dailey & Vincent; Victoria Theater, 138 N. Main St, Dayton, OH 45402 7 pm

**03/25** Silas Powell Band, Brother Ran-

dall; Pennyroyal Opera House,, Exit 198 off I-70, Fairview, OH. Doors open at 5. Music begins at 7 pm.

**03/25** Open Highway; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, OH 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p

**03/26** Country Gentlemen Tribute Band; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 4p

## Next NIBGA Jam in Fort Wayne - March 20, 2022

Please remember to thank these people for their support of Bluegrass in the Tri-State area. These are the Patrons that helped to keep our club afloat for the last two years when we couldn't have festivals. In the next issue, you will find information on how YOU can become one of our Bluegrass heros.

Wayne Boltz

Kevin Chriss

Verl Dasher

Mary Day

Bryan & Stephanie Dray

Julie Goldsmith & Jim Geise

Jerry & Sioux McLane

Anita Moran

Ian Oliveros

Terry & Irene Rassi

Linda & Poul Sandersen

Jim & Joan

Settlemyre

Mark & Cheryl Smith

Joe & Chris Steiner

Chris Vogie

Dave and Marianne Vogie

Cathy Voors

Terry & Peggy Wallace

Robert & Gail Warfel

Ronald Wedekind

Paul & Barbara Welch

Stewart White

Jim and Linda Winger

Marvin Woollet

Many thanks to ALL!

Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association  
5034 Wapiti Court  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946



**FEB 2022**

If your name and address are not correct, please notify us so that our records are up-to-date. Call (260) 918-4790